to take the supportive measures and policies which may help realise this, resulting from the expected expansion in world trade. The studies will be carried out by selected research institutions in the country.

(d) The Eighth Plan, has projected exports at Rs. 83,869 crores (US $ 33,548 million) by 1996-97, at 1991-92 prices.

Constitution of sub-group on drugs and medicines by India and Russia

3122. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have decided to constitute a Sub-Group on drugs and medicines under the joint commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) It has been decided after bilateral consultations between India and Russia to constitute a Sub-group on Pharmaceuticals under the aegis of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which itself has been created under the umbrella of the Indo-Russian Joint Commission. The Sub-group would be headed by a Joint Secretary in the Commerce Ministry from the Indian side and is likely to hold its first meeting in Moscow Indian pharmaceuticals have been popular in the Russian market due to the traditional acceptance, low prices and good quality However, of late, Indian pharmaceuticals have seen increasing competition in the Russian market from Western products. Against this back-drop, the sub-group will focus on promoting the export of pharmaceuticals from India to Russia. Matters relating to the signing of an inter-Governmental MoU on special benefits and facilities for Indian drugs, Joint Ventures in the pharmaceutical sector and related issues are also likely to be discussed. Both Governments are hopeful of intensifying cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sectors to mutual benefit, through the mechanism of the sub-group on pharmaceuticals.

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO in Foreign Countrtes

3123 SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation has organised a number of trade fairs in foreign countries during the last three financial years;

(b) if so, names of places country-wise separately during each year with total expenditure incurred during each year;

(c) whether the ITPO has made eaarning, of foreign exchange during their trade fairs in the last three financial years;

(d) if so, the details thereof country-wise and year-wise;

(e) whether this activity of I.T.P.O. has been found more profitable during the last three financil years; and

(f) if so, details of steps to be taken to increase the activity of ITPO in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir, the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) have organised participation in 43 fairs during 1992-93, 42 fairs during 1993-94 and 34 fairs during 1994-95 abroad.